

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) An additional information inserting apparatus for superimposing additional information on main information signals, comprising:

means for generating first and second insertion signals from the additional information such that the first insertion signals are generated for first intervals of the main information signals and the second insertion signals are generated for second intervals of the main information signals, and wherein the first and second intervals exist alternately along a time direction of the main information signals; and

means for multiplexing the first and second insertion signals; and

~~means for superimposing the first and second multiplexed insertion signals on the main information signals such that the first insertion signals are superimposed on first intervals of the main information signals and the second insertion signals are superimposed on second intervals of the main information signals, the first intervals and the second intervals existing alternately along a time direction of the main information signals.~~

2. (canceled)

3. (previously presented) The additional information inserting apparatus as set forth in Claim 1, wherein the superimposing means superimposes the first and second insertion

signals on the main information signals at predetermined intervals.

4. (previously presented) The additional information inserting apparatus as set forth in Claim 1, wherein the superimposing means superimposes the first and second insertion signals on the main information signals at intervals of a predetermined number of frames or fields.

5. (previously presented) The additional information inserting apparatus as set forth in Claim 1, wherein the main information signals include signal units, and the superimposing means superimposes the first and second insertion signals on a plurality of regions of the main information signals obtained by dividing the signal units.

6. (previously presented) The additional information inserting apparatus as set forth in Claim 3, wherein the main information signals are image signals having frames or fields, and signal units of the main information signals are the frames or fields of the image signals.

7. (previously presented) The additional information inserting apparatus as set forth in Claim 1, wherein the additional information used to generate the first insertion signals is identical to the additional information used to generate the second insertion signals.

8. (previously presented) The additional information inserting apparatus as set forth in Claim 1, wherein the insertion signal generating means generates the first and second insertion signals using key information, wherein the first insertion signals are different from the second insertion signals when the key information used to generate the first insertion signals from the additional information is different from the key information used to generate the second insertion signals from the additional information.

9. (previously presented) The additional information inserting apparatus as set forth in Claim 1, wherein the insertion signal generating means generates first and second insertion signals using encoding methods, wherein the first insertion signals are different from the second insertion signals when the encoding method used to generate the first insertion signals from the additional information is different from the encoding method used to generate the second insertion signals from the additional information.

10. (currently amended) A method for superimposing additional information on main information signals, comprising the steps of:

generating first and second insertion signals from the additional information such that the first insertion signals are generated for first intervals of the main information signals and the second insertion signals are generated for second intervals of the main information signals, and wherein the first

and second intervals exist alternately along a time direction of the main information signals; and

multiplexing the first and second insertion signals; and

~~superimposing the first and second multiplexed insertion signals on the main information signals such that the first insertion signals are superimposed on first intervals of the main information signals and the second insertion signals are superimposed on second intervals of the main information signals, the first intervals and the second intervals existing alternately along a time direction of the main information signals.~~

11. (canceled)

12. (previously presented) The additional information inserting method as set forth in Claim 10, wherein the superimposing step includes superimposing the first and second insertion signals on the main information signals at predetermined intervals.

13. (previously presented) The additional information inserting method as set forth in Claim 10, wherein the superimposing step includes superimposing the first and second insertion signals on the main information signals at intervals of a predetermined number of frames or fields.

14. (previously presented) The additional information inserting method as set forth in Claim 10, wherein the main

information signals include signal units, and the superimposing step includes superimposing the first and second insertion signals on a plurality of regions of the main information signals obtained by dividing the signal units.

15. (previously presented) The additional information inserting method as set forth in Claim 12, wherein the main information signals are image signals having frames or fields, and signal units of the main information signals are the frames or fields of the image signals.

16. (previously presented) The additional information inserting method as set forth in Claim 10, wherein the additional information used to generate the first insertion signals is identical to the additional information used to generate the second insertion signals.

17. (previously presented) The additional information inserting method as set forth in Claim 10, wherein the insertion signal generating step includes generating the first and second insertion signals using key information, wherein the first insertion signals are different from the second insertion signals when the key information used to generate the first insertion signals from the additional information is different from the key information used to generate the second insertion signals from the additional information.

18. (previously presented) The additional information inserting method as set forth in Claim 10, wherein the insertion signal generating step includes generating first and second insertion signals using encoding methods, wherein the first insertion signals are different from the second insertion signals when the encoding method used to generate the first insertion signals from the additional information is different from the encoding method used to generate the second insertion signals from the additional information.

19. (canceled)

20. (canceled)